



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.1725 | FAX (517) 373.0741

[www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/mcmanus/](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/mcmanus/)

## March is Reading Month

Whether we are checking food labels, filling out tax forms, scanning the want ads or even voting, reading is something many of us take for granted at home and at work. Yet millions of Americans struggle with the written word and this frustration develops at an early age. According to the U.S. Department of Education, approximately 40 percent of students across our nation cannot read at a basic level.

March is Reading Month and it's hard to overestimate the importance of reading. Reading is the foundation for success in school and in life. We know that children who love to read love to learn, enjoying greater success in other subjects as well. On the other hand, students who cannot read well are more likely to struggle in school and even drop out. That's why President Bush has made it a national goal to help each and every student become a successful, fluent reader by the end of third grade.

But there is much we can do outside of the classroom. Educators suggest even very young children can benefit from these reading tips:

- ⌚ Read to your child every day.
- ⌚ Encourage your child to read to you.
- ⌚ Help your child get a library card and use it often.
- ⌚ Give a book as a gift for birthdays and special occasions.
- ⌚ Keep books and newspapers in a prominent place in your home.
- ⌚ READ! Let your child see how much you value reading.

Of course, reading is more than the means to a diploma or a better paycheck - reading is fun, too! It opens the door to a world of adventure, discovery and imagination. As a lifelong reader, that's the message I share with students in the elementary schools I visit as a guest reader this month. I hope you have the opportunity to share your love of reading with a special young person in your life, too.

Michelle McManus  
35<sup>th</sup> Senate District

P.O. Box 30036  
Lansing, MI 48901  
517-373-1725